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UNCLAS LAGOS 000657

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [KFRD](#) [CVIS](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: SYNOPSIS OF FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES IN LAGOS,  
NIGERIA

Department for DS/ICI/CR, DS/IP/AF and CA/FPP

REF: Lagos 00546

1. (SBU) Summary: Within the past 6 months, six LES members and four guards have been fired from ConGen Lagos for visa-related fraud and malfeasance. Ongoing investigations by the DS Anti-Fraud agent and the RSOs office indicate that there is still more internal fraud to be uncovered. Post believe the situation to be serious and asks that Department send a TDY AFU agent assist with the current investigations (reftel) and to cover the AFU summer staffing gap. The Chief of the Consular Section concurs with this request. End summary
2. (SBU) Malfeasance in the Consular Section consists of altering case files, documents, electronic records, and issuing improper appointments. The most common internal fraud theme seems to be money for documents, mainly visas and appointment letters. In the past six to eight months, six locally employed staff have been fired. In addition, four guards from the Local Guard Force (LGF) have been fired for accepting money for visa appointments and two Mobile Police Officers (MOPOL) were asked to be removed from the Consulate detachment due to their involvement in accepting money from visa applicants in line.
3. (SBU) The DS Anti-Fraud Agent has a number of cases open at any given time, the majority regarding malfeasance in the Consular Section. Due to the sensitivity of said cases, the Agent must often work alone or ask for RSO assistance. Most of the investigations are complex, convoluted and have multiple channels. For example, a former Consulate gardener was instrumental in facilitating the sale of expedited appointments to visa applicants through secondary persons outside the Consulate. Ultimately, the trail always seems to lead back to a locally employed staff person.
4. (U) ARSO/I is scheduled to depart post in early July and his replacement is not due to arrive until mid-October. Post is concerned that a four-month gap will inundate the AFU successor with many of the same issues that have been resolved. Post respectfully requests that consideration be given to support a TDY AFU Agent for the reasons outlined above and in reftel.

Hinson-Jones